

Seder 1992

Matzoh time is near. Mark down Saturday, April 18 on your calendar for the congregational celebration of Passover.

Last year was a tremendous success with tasty food, great location, and a wonderfully haimish atmosphere, so we are planning a repeat performance at historic Fort Mason—the Officer's Club—and we are even holding the price to last year's. Space is limited; we know it will be a sellout, Remember the date and look out for the reservation form with next month's *Forward*.

—Shirley Liberman, Coordinator

Women's Shabbat Dinner

The Women's Chavurah is hosting a Shabbat dinner on Friday, April 3, at 6:30 pm, prior to services. Scheduled in the future for the fourth Friday of every month, this first dinner will be catered and held in the synagogue library. We hope you'll join us for a pleasant evening and take this opportunity to get to know other CSZ women a little better. RSVP to Jim at the office by Tuesday, March 24. The cost of dinner will be under \$10.

Rescheduled Dinner

Rabbi Yoel Kahn will host a catered Shabbat dinner for CSZ members living with HIV / AIDS on Friday, March 13 at 6 pm. (This is rescheduled from February 14.) If you are living with HIV or AIDS, or are the partner of a person with HIV, please join us in the library for a special evening of food, company, prayer and song. An informal, supportive discussion will follow dinner and will conclude before services. You may also bring a lover or a friend as a guest. For information, call Rabbi Kahn; RSVP to Jim in the office by Wednesday, March 11.

New Member Potluck

Everyone is invited to the CSZ new member potluck scheduled for March 15. Please join us for an afternoon of schmoozing, discussion and good food. Check the calendar for details.

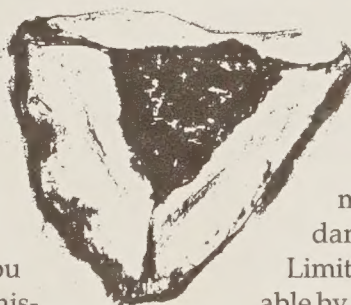
Purim Update

Fried Green Hamentashen

This year's Purim party, *Megillah Madness*, features an original play, "Fried Green Hamentashen," a story of coming out, political intrigue, and cheerleading. The party takes place on Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 pm in the Starr King Room of the Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin St., at Geary, in San Francisco.

Guarantees for a good time:

- Wear a costume—you will get a discount for admission and maybe even win the prize for having the best costume.
- Feast—there will be an array of Mediterranean delicacies (we need help making the food) and by bringing hamentashen, you could win a prize in the bake-off (call in advance to enter).
- Dance the night away—Israeli folk dancing (taught) begins at 7:30 pm and dancing to popular tunes with a DJ after the play.
- Makeup—have yourself done up at Esther's Beauty Bazaar throughout



the evening by our two professional makeup artists.

- Portraits—preserve your memories of the evening by getting a Polaroid from the Purim Portrait Studio.

The party begins at 7:30 pm with Israeli folk dancing. The curtain goes up at 8:15 pm for "Fried Green Hamentashen," followed by dancing with music by a DJ.

Limited childcare will be available by reservation only. Admission prices: CSZ members: \$5 in costume, \$7 in regular dress; non-members \$7 in costume, \$9 in regular dress.

Make the party more fun for all by getting involved. Make or bake something to eat (let us know in advance), help decorate or clean up, take tickets or Polaroids (we have the camera) and be a star—everyone is welcome on stage! To get more information or to get involved, call Nathan Robinson 415/567-8706, or Carolyn Pines 510/532-9661. See you there!

CSZ Open Hand Food Route Set

There was a tremendous outpouring of 140 volunteers to assist Project Open Hand in our effort at Christmas time. Many of you expressed interest in doing more for Project Open Hand on an ongoing basis. At present, Project Open Hand delivers over 1,100 meals every day of the year to people with AIDS in the Bay Area. That need grows every year. An increasing number of volunteers is essential to continue this vital effort. In response, Sha'ar Zahav will form its own team and adopt a delivery route.

In order to cover one route (approximately 20 meals) once a week, we will need 10 volunteers. Eight of the 10 vol-

unteers would be paired—each pair delivering meals once every four weeks. The other two volunteers would provide backup to the regular teams on an as-needed basis to cover for illness or vacation. To participate, you need only be able to arrive at Project Open Hand no later than 5 pm to pick up the meals. Delivery time averages from one to two hours depending upon route.

If you can spare a couple of hours once a month for six months, call Lane Schickler (255-9679) to sign up or for more information. Please consider participating in this rewarding volunteer opportunity and join the CSZ team!

Yahrzeit and You

One of the complaints about the era in which we live is that "the family" is endangered or dissolving. Jewish defenders of "tradition" often cite Judaism's emphasis on family as a reason for their closed minds about our place in the Jewish community. At Sha'ar Zahav, our congregational community is decidedly non-traditional but hardly anti-family—we celebrate and uplift our families. Whether lesbian, gay or not, everyone here understands and supports the continuity of the family. Our special contribution is redrawing the boundaries, to fully include in our families those who have shared our lives most intimately and have been the most important people for us. We all have friends, but many of us are also blessed with a family of friends. Many of us enjoyed enduring and deep relationships with aunts, uncles and grandparents whose presence in our lives has always been a source of blessing; some of us, alas, have been cut off from our families of origin.

We honor and affirm our family connections in death as we did in life. The Jewish way to remember the loss of a beloved family member is through the observance of yahrzeit. Each week, we recall the names of beloved friends and relatives who have died but whose memory is sacred. Our list some weeks is quite long; at Yom Kippur it is very long. Periodically, someone suggests that we restrict the list to "immediate family"; and I have argued against this, because these friends and relatives are the immediate family of those who remember them and a fundamental principle of our community is the right of each person to name and claim her or his own family.

I am proud of our success in bringing together the truth of our lives today—that our families are diverse and inclusive—with the traditions of our heritage: the observance of yahrzeit. Ever since I came to CSZ, though, I have been pained by the fact that week after week, names are read and Kaddish is said by the congregation, but the person whose loved one's yahrzeit is being observed is missing. My friend and colleague, Rabbi Stacey Offner, our CSZ bar/bat mitzvah scholar in residence, recently wrote about her similar feelings. The following is adopted from the Shir Tikvah Messenger:

If a tree falls in the forest and there is no one there to hear it, does the tree

make a noise? If a name is read on the yahrzeit list at services, and there is no mourner there to hear it, is the yahrzeit truly observed? I wonder. As our congregation grows in size, so does our yahrzeit list. Week after faithful week, I or the service leader read the names on the list, and I note the absences—not only the absence of those who are dead, but the absences of those who are living.

I don't want to make you feel guilty. I don't want to make you feel shame. I know the complications of distance and logistics, scheduling and traffic. I know how important it is to you that we are here even when you cannot be. And I know that you may be observing this yahrzeit in other ways, too. But I also want you to be inspired, as I am, by the power of your presence when you do come. And some of you—God bless you—do come. I know. Because I notice. And I am inspired by you. When I read the names of your loved ones and see you present in the congregation, I am moved by your dedication and commitment and caring. I wonder about that parent of yours, or grandparent, or lover, or companion, or friend. Those names that come up year after year take on a life of their own. They have become my friends. And I know who is visited, and who is not. I am moved to believe that death is not the end, when we who walk amongst the living can take the time and effort it does take to honor those who still live inside our hearts.

Judaism has given us a gift. It is the gift of a ritual that has been handed down from generation to generation—a ritual that gives us something constructive to do in the face of death, both at the moment of death and also over a lifetime, when we otherwise know not what to do. When it is the anniversary of the death of your loved ones, come to the synagogue to honor their life. Let the presence of this congregation be a source of comfort.

When a tree falls in the forest and somebody is there to hear it, it most certainly is heard. When a yahrzeit is read in the synagogue and you are there to hear it, not only is it heard by you, but I believe it is heard in heaven.

Learn How To Prepare a Derash

Join Rashi, Rambam, Nechama Leibowitz, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, and fellow inspired and aspiring Torah scholars, ancient and modern, on a four-week exploration of Torah, Torah commentaries and Jewish scholarship. This four-session class, beginning Tuesday, March 10 at 7:45 pm, will prepare you to give a *d'var Torah* at a meeting, service, Shabbat dinner table, or even casually with your friends. While we hope that you will consider giving a *derash* at CSZ, this class is open to everyone who would like to learn more about how to read and understand the Torah. There are no prerequisites besides your interest. Call the office to reserve a place.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, Richard Inlander, Ellen Murland, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Howard Goldberg, Alex Ingersoll, Merry Luskin, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein, Sylvia Weisenberg, Donna Rabinowitz, and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

On Diversity and Volunteerism

Several weeks ago, congregants were treated to a very lovely Shabbat experience celebrating the diversity of our religious traditions. The ritual included elements of Ashkenazic, Sephardic, and less well-known Middle Eastern practices in a nicely integrated and flowing service. As I sat listening and looking around at our filled-to-capacity building, I found myself trying to analyze and understand the impact of our diversity. I have always felt that one of the special challenges that faces the congregation is that of accommodating people who differ from each other in many ways. The very act of creating a synagogue based on sexual orientation automatically ensures that members will represent all other demographic categories. At times over the past nearly 15 years, it has seemed that we were more homogeneous, but that evening I had the distinct sense that we are, indeed, a very diverse group. The age range seemed much expanded; I was delighted to see people from their early 20s on up. Not only do congregants come from varied religious traditions, but come from many parts of the world, from all socio-economic groups, and probably espouse a range of political opinions from radical to right of middle-of-the-road. We live alone, with roommates, or in committed relationships. Some are parents, some are non-gay, others are Jews-by-choice. Each week several people enter the world of CSZ for the first time, seeking perhaps a comfortable place to experience Jewish spirituality, or to meet someone new. For many others, Sha'ar Zahav is the only place to be on a Friday night.

In my years as a member and a leader of Sha'ar Zahav, I have often felt the tension—both within myself and from others—that arises from this diversity. Is not the purpose of an institution to serve the needs of its members? But how can one organization meet the needs of such a varied population? The underlying tension can flare into infighting and divisiveness, or it can be the stimulus for inventiveness and creativity. It is my hope, of course, that we are on the latter track, where we can apply our energy to integrate as many of our members as possible into the CSZ community. I am not foolish

enough to believe that we can meet *all* of the members' needs *all* of the time. But as I (and I hope you) reflect on all of our activities and programs, I can't help but acknowledge that there is plenty of room for individual growth, personal commitment, and fun.

How many other organizations provide opportunities for spiritual fulfillment, education, both for adults and children, a chance to build or paint, cater events, bring meals to the sick, visit elderly people, design and execute innovative liturgy, run a gift shop, support political movements, sing, act, dance, meet and make new friends, find a lover, develop an emotional support network, build an extended family? Here you can learn how to edit a newsletter, facilitate a small group, design policy, or even run an entire organization! No, we may not be able to be all things to all people, but I think we have a good head start on most other organizations.

What is necessary to make all of this work is individual commitment. The organization can only meet the needs of its members if each one is willing to add his or her unique talents, skills, energy, and desires to the collective group. As with any successful "marriage," the result of a union of diversities is a dynamic, exciting, growing organism. Over the years, Sha'ar Zahav has been that. Paradoxically, however, our remarkable growth over the past five years has perhaps gravi-

tated against increased volunteerism. Unlike the founders and early members of the synagogue, newer members are coming into a well-established, reasonably well-functioning organization. Many feel that they are not needed, because everything seems to have been done already. Nothing could be farther from the truth. At our recent "mini-advance" (a half-day planning workshop for leaders), both financial and human resource priorities for the coming year were discussed. Several committees need additional members; new committees may be created to spearhead major building renovation projects and fundraising. Increasing illness among members requires more people to volunteer time and energy for caring. After a thought-provoking discussion at the mini-advance about why it was difficult to get volunteers, I asked people to state briefly why they *do* volunteer. Their responses spanned a range from personal growth to communal obligation. Personal growth and challenge, fun and social contact, having input into decision making, and ego satisfaction were personal goals mentioned. Volunteering as an outgrowth of Jewish identity, giving back to an organization for benefits received, and being part of and serving a larger community were some of the communal-based reasons. Interestingly, several people mentioned that they volunteered simply and precisely because they were asked. Over the next several months, our new volunteer coordinator will be trying to identify all of our members' interests and skills as potential volunteers, so that we can more knowledgeably ask for your help. I hope that when we ask (and even before we get around to asking), you will find your own personal reason for saying "yes." If you think you might be interested in a committee, event, or project, just call the office and we'll put you in touch with the right person. Whether you respond to a call or initiate your volunteer activity, we deeply appreciate your participation. We will all be enriched by your efforts and by the diversity of your opinions, talents, and styles, and challenged to creativity by your diverse needs.

Israel Tourism Information Day

Sunday, March 29

Temple Emanu-El, Guild Hall
Lake Street at Arguello Boulevard
San Francisco

Noon to 5 pm • Admission Free

Vacations • Touring
Study Programs • Sports • Recreation
Volunteer Opportunities

Detailed information and brochures
available on various options in Israel

February Va'ad Report

Rabbi Kahn began our meeting with a *d'var Torah* and contrasted the admonition in a recent Torah portion regarding the building of the sanctuary—"Let each person bring whatever he/she is moved to bring"—with another passage in which the entire community is commanded to donate a half a shekel. This contrast, between discretionary and mandated giving, called to mind the Va'ad's discussion of last month—whether CSZ should have a policy asking all members to volunteer time to the synagogue. Rabbi Kahn suggested that while a certain base level of giving can be mandated, there is another level which cannot be legislated. Rather, we must strive to create a social environment in which discretionary giving as well is understood to be vital.

Last month the Va'ad approved the Finance Committee's suggestion that we should pay off the mortgage on the synagogue building because of our current healthy financial situation and current interest rates. The Va'ad was not sure, however, whether our bylaws permit a payoff without a congregational vote. Edward Pollack and Richard Inlander (our Bylaws Committee) investigated the question, and reported this month that congregational approval of this decision is not required; the Finance Committee is now authorized to make the payment.

The Finance Committee has begun work on next year's budget and sought input from board members on funding priorities. The Va'ad reached consensus that we would like to stop passing the pushke baskets at services as soon as possible. Before we do, however, we should formulate a plan about how to recoup the lost revenue. Kathy and Brett volunteered to develop such a proposal and will report next month.

Next discussed was the possibility of soliciting more advertising for the newsletter, and of rethinking the High Holiday ticket policy. We also considered whether we should think of certain events as purely social/religious, or whether all of our programs should be expected to have a fundraising component. It was generally agreed that all such issues should be the province of the as yet unformed "Fundraising Committee," and should be deferred until its formation. Until that time, the Va'ad rec-

ommended projecting income conservatively, without assuming that social events will be big fundraisers. Hopefully, the new committee will soon take shape and will begin designing successful fundraising programs.

In other reports, Membership Chair Judy Schwartz presented one individual and one family for membership in the congregation, and they were accepted.

In response to a generous offer by the parents of Cheryl Orvis, the Cemetery Committee proposed to make available to members, their families, and friends the opportunity to purchase trees and shrubs for the cemetery. The particular species of plants would be selected by the Cemetery Committee in consultation with the staff at Hills of Eternity. In addition, no plaques or markers of any kind would be placed in the cemetery other than gravestones and the existing entry markers. The Va'ad accepted the proposal.

Susan Unger reported that many people are involved in putting together a beautiful Hebrew/English Sha'ar Zahav Haggadah for publication. Because of some desktop publishing problems, however, the final version will not be ready this year. Instead, we will print a low-cost version for this year's congregational seder, and have a marketing plan and finished version next year.

Rabbi Kahn relayed a request by *Pa'amayim* (UC Berkeley Hillel's gay and lesbian group) to use CSZ's Social Action mailing list for the purpose of publicizing a fundraiser for the Israeli gay and lesbian cultural center in Tel Aviv. Since this is just the sort of thing for which our Social Action list was created, the Va'ad approved the request.

Rabbi Kahn announced that Rabbi Nancy Flam, West Coast director of the Jewish Healing Center, has asked to organize and hold a weekly service for healing at CSZ. The program would be co-sponsored by the congregation and the Healing Center. The rabbi and Va'ad members felt that this would be a wonderful and more regular extension of the healing services we have held over the past several years, so the Va'ad approved the request.

In his report, President Allan Gold noted that our current budget includes \$2,500 income from a fundraising event in this fiscal year, and that we currently

have no plans on how to raise this money. Susan Unger and Rabbi Kahn agreed to look at the notes from last summer's Advance, where this was discussed, and to report back.

Our meeting was adjourned with the singing of *Oseh Shalom*, and a closed session followed.

—Kathy Simon, Recorder

CSZ Israel Trip Moved Up

The Sha'ar Zahav 1993 trip to Israel will be rescheduled due to the change in the 13th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, which will now be taking place in London from April 30 through May 3.

Because our trip to Israel will immediately follow the conference, we are changing the date for the convenience of those who want to attend the conference and go to Israel with our group.

We trust this change in dates is early enough so as not to cause any problems. Please read future issues of the *Forward* for further details.

Life Cycle Onegs

Celebrating the life cycles of our members is very important to us at Sha'ar Zahav. To make the celebrations more meaningful, we have decided to set aside the last Friday night oneg of each month to commemorate the birthdays and anniversaries of our members, and read their names at services that evening.

To make the observance more personal, you may make a donation for the oneg in the name of someone having a birthday or anniversary. The cost is only \$10 and the process is easy.

Each quarter there will be an insert in the *Jewish Gaily Forward* listing all the birthdays and anniversaries for the next four months. Simply place a mark next to the name of the person in whose name the donation is made and mail the form back to the office. You may acknowledge as many as you like. As an honor to you, your name will be listed in the *Forward* as an oneg sponsor. An acknowledgement will also be sent to the honoree.

The first such form is included in this issue.

SPPR Fundraiser

We in *Pa'amayim*, the *Twice Blessed* lesbian, gay and bisexual Jewish student group at the U.C. Berkeley Hillel, are excited about another great project. Already responsible for last year's remarkable memorial service for gays murdered in the Holocaust, *Pa'amayim* is now organizing a large fundraiser for the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights (SPPR) Community Center in Tel Aviv.

The SPPR, Israel's gay and lesbian rights organization, has recently made headway in securing rights for Israel's gay community. Their center is extremely run down and cannot adequately serve the needs of Israel's gay community in its present condition. They have asked diaspora gay and lesbian Jewry for financial help to cover the cost of renovations and we have enthusiastically accepted the challenge.

The fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, March 15 from 7 to 10 pm at Berkeley Hillel's beautiful new facility. We will begin with performances by three outstanding local artists followed by a reception, which promises to be more than just the unusual. *Pa'amayim* hopes to see support from not only the gay Jewish community, but from the broader Jewish and gay communities as well.

CSZ has given a high level of support to the *Pa'amayim* program to date. Rabbi Kahn spoke at last year's Holocaust memorial and the synagogue hosted some of our students at a special Friday night oneg last semester. Synagogue members were also wonderful when they volunteered their time to appear on a panel dealing with interfaith relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish lesbians and gays.

In addition to attending, there are ways to help make this evening a success. The steering committee has expanded beyond U.C. Berkeley students and includes Jewish community workers in both the East Bay and San Francisco, as well as Jewish activists in the gay rights movement. Call Peter (510/845-7793) to volunteer.

Tickets are \$18 and can be ordered by sending a check to Berkeley Hillel, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. Please make checks out to "Hillel" and note that it is for the SPPR fundraiser. Contributions are tax deductible. In addition, benefactors (those who contribute \$250)

will be listed on the program and receive six tickets; patrons (\$150) will be listed and receive four tickets; and friends (\$75) will receive two tickets.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Arthur Slepian |
| 3 | Joshua Michael Cohen |
| 5 | Edward Pollock |
| 5 | Nancy Wecker |
| 6 | Laurie Joan Mintz |
| 6 | Adrianne Forshay |
| 7 | Allen Harris |
| 8 | Ann F. Biderman |
| 9 | Laurie Davis |
| 9 | Perry R. Paker |
| 10 | Dana Vinicoff |
| 11 | Jessie Ap'neva |
| 12 | Judith Scherr |
| 13 | Ari Chaim Adler |
| 17 | Roger Gross |
| 21 | Jeffrey Shuman |
| 21 | Joshua Lee |
| 21 | Mike Abramson |
| 21 | Laurence J. Cohen |
| 22 | Shawn Cooper-Keitel |
| 23 | Blanche Blachman |
| 24 | Nora Klimser |
| 24 | Jay Ladin |
| 25 | Lynn Bravewomon |
| 27 | Rebecca Ann |
| 28 | Francie Hornstein |
| 29 | Robert B. Gutterman |
| 29 | Harold Parker |
| 30 | Susan Greenspan |

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Bowling Sign-Up

The Women's Chavurah hits the lanes at 7 pm on Saturday, March 14, at Japan-town Bowl, Post and Webster streets, in San Francisco. Come early (three hours of free validated parking in the Japan-town garage) and enjoy a quiet dinner (before all the action) at one of the dozens of great restaurants in the area. If you haven't done so, call Susan (510/482-3740) to reserve a place.

Women's Health Symposium

In 1991, CSZ published a long-range plan, to identify activities that would be of interest to the congregation. Members filled out surveys and many expressed interest in issues related to women's physical and emotional health. In response, the Women's Chavurah is exploring the possibility of putting together a one-day symposium this fall that will focus on women's health issues.

If there is sufficient interest and willing workers, we'll hold the first planning meeting in April to discuss possible topics, speakers, location, organization, timing and so on. If you have expertise in health and related issues, or other critical skills such as stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, or preparing PR materials, please get involved. Call Susan at 510/482-3740.

Oneg Sponsors

During February, the following generous people sponsored onegs:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 7 | Margaret Rossoff, in honor of her legal adoption of her son Max |
| 14 | Karen Erlichman, in honor of the fifth anniversary of Karen and Deborah Dixon |
| 28 | Francie Hornstein and Ellen Peskin, celebrating their son Jesse's bar mitzvah. |

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, since such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.

Edward Pollock, in honor of the opening of Jeffrey Davidson's allergy practice

Marion Trentman, in memory of her grandmother

Jon Funk and John Arnold, in honor of Randy Weiss and Sam Walter's new home

AIDS Fund

Jay Ladin

Children's Education Fund

Eve Meyer and Jim Edlin, in honor of the arrival and naming of Gabriel Kenneth Edlin

Education Fund

Jonathan Schwartz, in honor of Gabriel Kenneth Edlin's entrance into the covenant

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lolma Olson, in memory of her mother, Willie Olson

Richard Inlander, in honor of Susan Horst, because of Tom

Eve Meyer and Jim Edlin, in honor of the arrival and naming of Gabriel Kenneth Edlin

Robert Tat, in memory of Thelma Schwartz

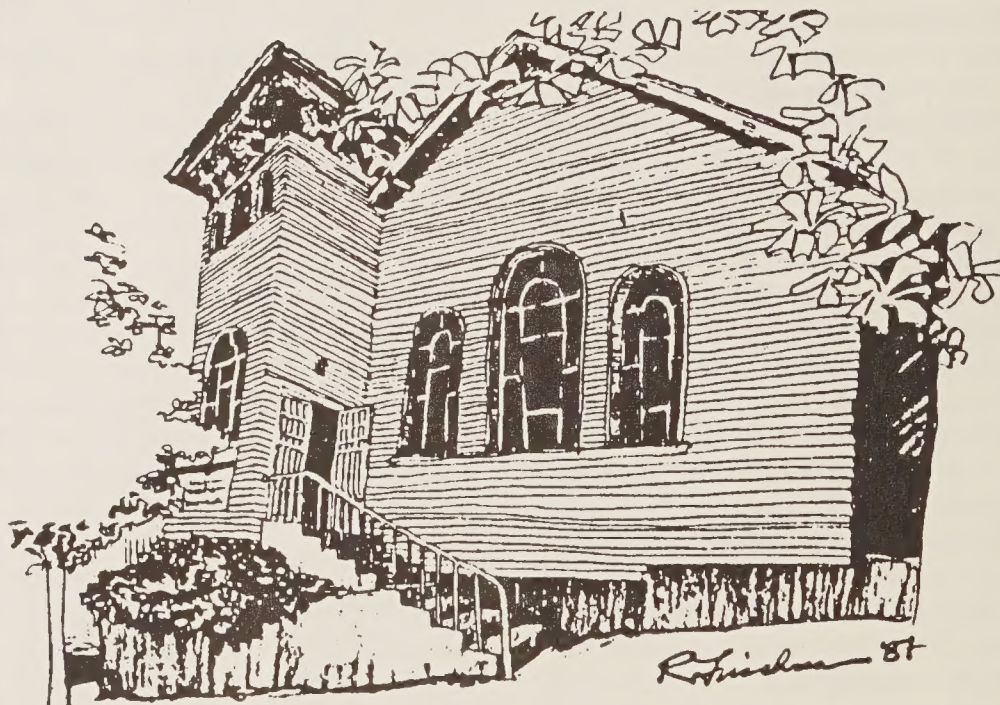
Anonymous, in memory of Keith Fenton

Social Action Fund

Jay Ladin, in memory of Thelma Schwartz

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Gift Shop



Grand Reopening

We are now open again following the completion of the office renovation. Come celebrate with us and see our new Pesach items.

Friday nights 7:30-8:05 or by appointment.

Call Jeff Rubin at 334-7423.

Susan C. Schwartz, Lic. Ac., Dipl. Ac.
Practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine

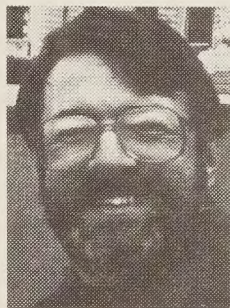
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Jonathan Goldman

Our volunteer of the month has the unusual distinction and experience of having been actively involved in *four* gay and lesbian congregations! Synagogue volunteerism came early for him, having led services at his family synagogue in Brooklyn while still a teenager. Though at one time he considered becoming a Reconstructionist rabbi, he pursued optometry instead. Following four years each at Brooklyn College and optometry school in Boston, Jonathan moved to San Francisco, serving a brief time as jail optometrist at the Hall of Justice (where he just missed the Zebra killers). Going back East for another brief stint in private practice in Toms River, N.J., he finally tired of optometry and got bored saying "which is clearer, one or two." It was on to Temple University in Philadelphia for his MBA in health administration.



Jonathan Goldman

In Philly he got involved with Beth Ahavah—his first gay and lesbian congregation. While teaching in Chicago, Jonathan discovered his second: Or Chadash, and then his third: Beth Mishpachah in Washington, D.C. CSZ has been the fortunate recipient of all of Jonathan's experience since he returned here in 1983 to stay. And one year later he met his lover Roger.

Jonathan is one of those volunteers who has never been a committee chair or officer. He has preferred to give a little here and there. Among the numerous things he has contributed: assisting with a number of holiday events (from setup, to cleanup, to performing in the Purim pageant), staffing the CSZ table on Gay Pride Day, working on the 12th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, and stepping in to coordinate the Women's Chavurah blood drive. Jonathan says, "I gravitate to the fun events, those 'ethical culture' occasions that appeal to our common bonds ... I think of myself as a creative idea person and a good traffic director at events."

Jonathan is very matter-of-fact and practical about his strong involvement. "Volunteering has always provided me

an instant source of affiliation with an organization and allowed me to learn and grow." Asked about the similarities and differences among the gay and lesbian congregations, Jonathan replied, "Each congregation is similar in that it is only as strong as those who volunteer. However, I have been impressed at Sha'ar Zahav by the breadth and diversity of talents in those who volunteer. This is truly a people's synagogue. Of all these congregations, CSZ clearly has the most valuable contribution from women."

A small Yorkshire terrier, Rebel, joined his family shortly before Roger's death two years ago, and has been a source of joy and a devoted volunteer himself. Along with Rebel, Jonathan has been active volunteering outside of CSZ. They volunteer for PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support for People with AIDS), and this past year Jonathan appeared as a pet store Santa for a benefit. Though he

works at Laguna Honda Hospital as assistant to the executive administrator, doing "anything and everything not assigned to anyone else," he finds time to volunteer there as well. Rebel accompanies him to visit elderly residents. Jonathan assures that the 20 or so Jewish residents (out of 1,100) are given a bit of *Yiddishkeit* on Passover, Chanukah and Rosh Hashanah. Rebel was also star when he joined Jonathan and other Bikkur Cholim Committee members during their latest Chanukah nursing home visits.

Jonathan looks forward to helping out more at CSZ in the future. He feels it is important that we "provide ourselves as role models (which we didn't have) for future gays and lesbians." Surely Jonathan's continuing participation is one of the reasons that there will remain such "breadth and diversity" of talent at CSZ.

—Lane Schickler

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Anniversaries

- 1 Eileen Linda Lynette & Charlene O'Neil
- 4 Sara Haber & Diane Snyder
- 15 Raphael Hoch & Seth Frohman
- 20 Caroline Isaacs & Randy Mayers
- 20 Sandy Meyers & Maggie Rochlin
- 24 Martin Spector & Rodger Morales
- 29 Judith Klain & Marie Chavez
- 31 Jessie Ap'neva & Nina Wouk



Office Notes

I would like to give special thanks to Ann Bauman who volunteered nearly 60 hours of her time, in between working in Hayward, commuting from Napa, and her many other projects, to design and implement our new synagogue database management system.

Some of you may have tried donating items to the Community Thrift Store in the name of Sha'ar Zahav and were told that we no longer have an account. The problem has been resolved and we now have an active account once again. Community Thrift is a thrift store which gives money back to organizations for items donated and then sold in the store.

Reminder: For those of you who have not yet returned your database information forms to the office, please do so. This is the *only* way to ensure correct information in the synagogue database.

Condolences

To Michael Ravitch and G'Dali Braverman on the death of their friend, Michael Wright.

To Irene Ogus on the death of her friend and business partner, Bruce Anderson

To Steve Horowitz, Seth Charney, and many others at CSZ on the death of Keith Fenton

To Cindy Greenberg on the death of her mother, Joan Greenberg

To Eileen Dunn on the death of her friend, Phyllis Greenfield

To Jonathan Comisar on the death of his friend, Hinda Gold

Purim Storyteller for Kids and Families

Master storyteller Doug Lipman will be at the Jewish Community Library on Sunday, March 15 to tell Purim stories to young listeners and their families. Lipman is known for interweaving his stories with guitar music and song, and for his gentle wit and optimism.

The fun begins at 1:30 on Sunday, March 15 and is free and open to the public. The Jewish Community Library is located at 601 14th Ave. at Balboa in San Francisco. For more information, please call 751-6983.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members in February. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

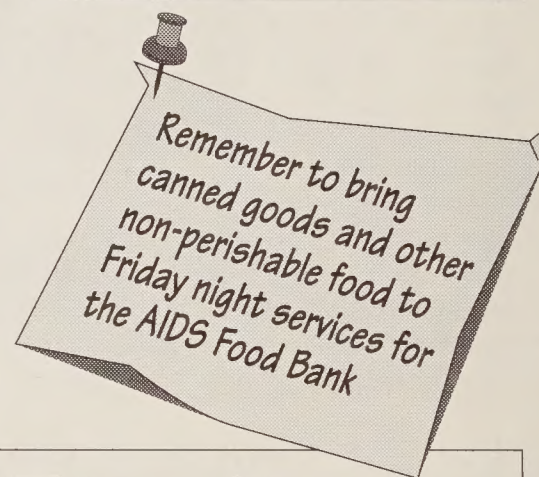
Ellen Lewin and Lizabeth Goodman

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

American Jewish Archives

The American Jewish Archives is eager to help you. Scientific and scholarly study, family history, youth and adult education—even the history of your own temple—all these are areas in which the American Jewish Archives can assist you.

Our collection of manuscripts, photographs and recordings pertaining to the American Jewish experience is unmatched in its depth and variety. Please call or write the American Jewish Archives, HUC-JIR, 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220, (513) 221-1875, fax (513) 221-7812.



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of our faith. A site chosen for its natural beauty, enhanced by meticulous care.

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Payment plans can be discussed

Naches

To Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman on their wedding, December 8.

To Eve Meyer and Jim Edlin on the adoption of their son Gabriel, born on January 17.

To Bernard Pechter for becoming the first Jew and the first person from outside the parish to serve on the board of the Most Holy Redeemer Support Group.

To Jeffrey Davidson on the opening of his new medical office.

To Alita Rosenfeld on the legal adoption of her son, Daniel.

Naches Kvetches

It has come to the attention of the editors here at the *Forward* that some of our readers are unhappy because they are happy—but nothing about their *reason* for being happy has been printed in the Naches column!

Wake up and smell the hamentashen, folks. For the world to know about your own particular naches, you must let us here at the newsletter know. All you have to do is contact the office. They will do the rest.

Seeing Through "Paradise"

Artists and the Terezín
Concentration Camp

On display until March 22

University Art Museum

2625 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94720

Call 510/642-8344 for special viewing
hours and/or guided tours.

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn (861-6932)

Officers:

President, Allan Gold (929-9524)
Administrative Vice President,
Claudia Bernard
Program Vice President,
Tiela Chalmers
Treasurer, Brett Trueman
Recorder, Kathy Simon

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Charney
Daniel Chesir
Steve Elman
Gail Friedlander
Lisa Katz
Ida Kuluk
Nathan Robinson
Judy Schwartz
Susan Unger

Office Personnel:

Manager, Mark Pressler
Secretary, Jim Cotant

Committee Chairs:

Archivist, open
Bequests and Donations, Pam
Schaffer
Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Brotherhood, Phil Charney
Building, Ellen Gierson
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Audrey
Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues, David Stein & Ron Lezell

Education, Don Albert (acting)
Finance, Pam Schaffer
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers
Membership, Judy Schwartz
Newsletter, by committee
Oneg, Donna Rabinowitz
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, Claudia Bernard
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
Religious School, Mary Morgan
Ritual, Larry Wexler
Social Action, Susan Foster
Social Program, by committee
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard
Women's Chavurah, Susan Tubbesing
LIBRARIAN

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair
are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am
to 4 pm. Rabbi's office hours by appoint-
ment. Please call the synagogue office at
(415) 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency,
the Congregation can be contacted outside
of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Services are held every Friday evening
beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted),
with an Oneg Shabbat following services.
Services are generally held on the last
Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—
check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm

Library Hours: Open during office hours,
and 30 minutes before and after Friday
night services.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew
Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimer-
ling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress
of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations
(Eric Cooper-Keitel, Liaison).

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congrega-
tion of the Golden Gate) is located in the
Upper Market District of San Francisco at
220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block
south of the intersection of 18th and Market
streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus
33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk
one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

281 Noe (at Market), San Francisco, CA 94114 415/252-5500

Isabel Lillian Caroline Ernie Jeffrey Marc
Eric Aaron Richard Susan Jane Henry Lee
Mark Debra
Judith Ron Betty Scott Bernard Eve Jim
Claudia Frank Karen
Deborah Francine Ellen Jay Gabriel Edward
Randy Joshua
Nancy Laurie Adrienne Allen Perry Dana
Mike Blaine Shalom Jesse Nora Day Ann
Lynn Rebecca Harold Nina Diane Seth
Sara Irene Cindy Eileen Keith Doug Shirley

Please wear
your CSZ
name tag
to services!

MARCH

אָדָר א' - אָדָר ב'

1 Sunday 26 Adar I

- 9am, Women as a Force for Social Change Conference, 777-0411
- 12 noon, Social Action sandwich making for the homeless work party, 265 Laidley, San Francisco

2 Monday 27 Adar I

3 Tuesday 28 Adar I

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Lead a Service
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

4 Wednesday 29 Adar I

5 Thursday 30 Adar I

- 7pm, Children's Education meeting

6 Friday 1 Adar II

- 8:15pm, Shabbat services, Scott Mezistrano & Josh Lee

7 Saturday 2 Adar II

- 9:30am, Kadimah

8 Sunday 3 Adar II

9 Monday 4 Adar II

- 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

10 Tuesday 5 Adar II

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

11 Wednesday 6 Adar II

12 Thursday 7 Adar II

13 Friday 8 Adar II

- 6pm, HIV/AIDS Shabbat dinner with the rabbi
- 8:15pm, Shabbat services, Rabbi Kahn & Dana Vinicoff

14 Saturday 9 Adar II

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 7pm, Women's Chavurah bowling night, Japantown Bowl

15 Sunday 10 Adar II

- 1:30pm, Purim stories, Jewish Community Library, 14th & Balboa
- 4-7pm, New members' potluck, 61 Ford St., San Francisco
- 7-10pm, SPPR fundraiser, UC Berkeley Hillel

16 Monday 11 Adar II

- 7:30pm, Education meeting, Library

17 Tuesday 12 Adar II

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

18 Wednesday 13 Adar II

- 7:30pm, Purim Services, Rabbi Kahn, Jody Reiss & Jonathan Comisar

19 Thursday 14 Adar II

- 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting

20 Friday 15 Adar II

- 8:15pm, Shabbat services, Rabbi Kahn & Lyssa Friedman
- 8:15pm, East Bay services, Ida Kuluk, 1442 East 36th St., Oakland, 510/531-6179

21 Saturday 16 Adar II

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 7:30pm, Purim Party, "Megillah Madness," Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco

22 Sunday 17 Adar II

23 Monday 18 Adar II

24 Tuesday 19 Adar II

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

25 Wednesday 20 Adar II

26 Thursday 21 Adar II

- 6:30pm, Ritual Committee meeting

27 Friday 22 Adar II

- 8:15pm, Shabbat services, Paul Cohen

28 Saturday 23 Adar II

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 10:30am, Shabbat services

29 Sunday 24 Adar II

- 12 noon-5pm, Israel Tourism Information Day, Temple Emanu-El

30 Monday 25 Adar II

31 Tuesday 26 Adar II

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How To Prepare a Derash
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.